

# Central Valley Ag Tour 2005

Hosted by Congressman Devin Nunes

June 2, 2005

## Welcome to the Nunes ag tour

Thank you for being a part of my annual Central Valley Ag Tour of the 21st Congressional District. You will quickly find that this day will be time well spent in becoming better acquainted with the variety and complexity of the agricultural industry here in Fresno and Tulare counties.

There will be plenty to see, hear, smell and taste along the way. While the pace of this tour must be brisk to accommodate the number of stops, I assure you that there will be time for questions, as well as opportunities to deepen your understanding of the many facets you encounter.

I know we'll have fun along the way, and I appreciate the opportunity to get to know all of you better.



*Devin Nunes*

## Ag diversity is Central Valley strength

Since 1948, California has been the nation's top agriculture state in cash receipts. And nowhere is agriculture more significant than the central San Joaquin Valley, where Fresno and Tulare counties top the list in ag production.

In the valley economy, agriculture accounts for more than 21 percent of all income and 25 percent of all employment, according to UC Davis studies.

Even as some commodities struggle from year to year, the region's diverse crops and livestock help maintain its economic strength.

Last year, ag production in Fresno County surpassed \$4 billion for the second consecutive year, with grapes topping the list in crop



Rep. Nunes and Deputy Assistant Secretary of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers John Woodley Jr. answering questions at a press conference near Success Dam (May 2005)

value at \$592 million.

Tulare County's ag production surpassed the \$4 billion for the first time with milk topping the list in crop

dollar value at \$1 billion. Milk was the first commodity to pass the billion-dollar mark in value.

## Nunes welcomes Sec. A.G. Kawamura

Governor Schwarzenegger appointed A.G. Kawamura as secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture in November 2003. Secretary Kawamura is a produce grower and shipper from Orange County, where his family grows strawberries, green beans and other specialty crops.

Secretary Kawamura has a long history of public service to his community and to agriculture. At the time of his appointment, he was a member of the California State Board of Food and Agriculture, where he had served since 1998. He is the immediate past chairman of the Agricultural Technical Advisory

Committee, a USDA advisory position for international trade. He also held board positions with CDFA's Western Institute for Food Safety and Security, a partnership with U.C. Davis, and with the California Institute for Specialty Crops, a partnership with Cal Poly San Luis Obispo.

In addition, Secretary Kawamura has served as president of the Orange County Farm Bureau, chairman of Western Growers Association, and president of the Orange County Agricultural Association. He has also served as a director on the



boards of the California Strawberry Commission and the California Celery Research Advisory Board. He was a founding trustee of Sage Hill High School in Orange County.

Secretary Kawamura is widely known for his passion for education and for his commitment to the issues of hunger and nutrition.

Secretary Kawamura has a bachelor's degree in comparative literature from U.C. Berkeley.